

Felicia Rosario, MD

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dr. Felicia Rosario is a forensic behavioral analyst specializing in coercive control, human trafficking, and abuse dynamics. She is retained by attorneys to explain how psychological coercion, fear, and dependency shape victim behavior, disclosure, and testimony in ways courts routinely misread. Her work spans criminal, family law, and domestic violence matters at the state and federal level, including proceedings in both U.S. and international courts. She holds an MD from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, completed a psychiatry internship at LAC+USC Medical Center, and is a member of Harvard Medical School's Program in Psychiatry and the Law. Her expertise is further grounded in documented firsthand experience within a coercive system, as Executive Producer and featured subject of the Hulu documentary *Stolen Youth: Inside the Cult* at Sarah Lawrence.

EXPERT WITNESS & CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Forensic Behavioral Consultant

Felicia Rosario Consulting — New York, NY | 2023–Present

Consulting expert providing record review and behavioral analysis in criminal, family law, domestic violence, and human trafficking matters. Services include expert reports, case strategy consultation, witness preparation, and litigation support.

Representative Cases

- 2023: Family law custody matter, Virginia — retained by defense to analyze influence dynamics, inconsistent statements, and trauma-impacted presentation affecting narrative stability; consulted on behavioral considerations relevant to custody and safety evaluation.
- 2024: Criminal matter, New York — retained by defense to analyze trauma-related dissociation and non-reactive affective presentation following a high-stress incident; prepared behavioral analysis relevant to counsel's assessment of client behavior under acute stress.
- 2024: Criminal/domestic violence matter, Florida — retained by plaintiff to analyze recantation, contradictory statements, and behavior under coercive conditions; consulted on interpretation of trauma-impacted presentation and communication with involved agencies.
- 2025: Federal human trafficking matter, New York — retained on behalf of victim to provide behavioral analysis and preparation for adversarial questioning; addressed affective expression and response patterns commonly observed in trauma-impacted individuals in legal proceedings.
- 2026: Family law custody matter, Ontario Court of Justice (*McNamara v. McNamara*) — retained by defense to analyze coercive control dynamics and provide expert report in cross-border proceedings.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Behavioral Analysis & Forensic Interpretation

- Coercive control and undue influence
- Trauma-distorted behavior and affect
- Recantation and inconsistent statements
- Delayed disclosure and reporting patterns

- Behavior under duress and psychological pressure
- Power dynamics and dominance patterns
- Grooming, manipulation, and predatory influence
- Analysis of autonomy versus external influence
- High-control groups and institutional manipulation
- Behavioral analysis relevant to credibility determinations

Behavioral & Trauma-Informed Knowledge Base

- Neurobiological basis of trauma responses (fight, flight, freeze, fawn)
- Impact of chronic stress and fear on cognition and decision-making
- Dissociation, trauma bonding, and learned helplessness
- Memory fragmentation and trauma-related recall issues
- Psychiatric presentations commonly misunderstood in legal contexts

Case Types

Criminal (sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, homicide) | Family Law (custody, protective orders)

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE & MEDIA

Executive Producer & Featured Subject

Stolen Youth: Inside the Cult at Sarah Lawrence | Hulu | 2020–2023

- Provided firsthand account and analysis of coercive control, psychological manipulation, and trauma-related survival responses
- Consulted to support accurate and ethical portrayal of influence dynamics and survivor behavior
- The documentary has been used by FBI special agents in coercive control and trauma-informed training for new agents

EDUCATION & CLINICAL TRAINING

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, NY | 2011

Bachelor of Arts, Biochemical Sciences

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA | 2004

Clinical Psychiatry Training

LAC+USC Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA | 2011–2012

- Completed psychiatry internship (PGY-1) at one of the nation's highest-volume psychiatric emergency services
- Conducted psychiatric evaluations, crisis assessments, and involuntary commitment determinations (5150/5250 evaluations) under attending supervision
- Developed extensive clinical experience with trauma presentations, dissociation, behavioral crises, and psychiatric conditions commonly misinterpreted in legal contexts

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, Program in Psychiatry and the Law (PIPATL) | Harvard Medical School | 2023–Present
Selective, invitation-based interdisciplinary program of psychiatrists, psychologists, attorneys, and legal scholars focused on advanced education, scholarship, and professional dialogue at the intersection of psychiatry and law.

Member, International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) | 2023–Present
Specialized focus on coercive control, high-control groups, and influence dynamics.

Member, International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD) | 2025–Present
Specialized focus on trauma, dissociation, and complex trauma presentations in clinical and forensic contexts.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Delivered

Rosario, F. (2026, March). Reframing shame: Creating a path to autonomy and resilience in trauma recovery [Conference presentation]. Annual conference of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation, Portland, OR.

Forthcoming

Rosario, F. (2026, April). What do the Epstein Files, The Handmaid's Tale, and the crisis in Afghanistan have in common? [Panel presentation]. Voices Unveiled [virtual].

Rosario, F. (2026, June 8). Coercive control and cult-based trafficking [Conference presentation]. WorldWE, Washington, DC.

Rosario, F. (2026, June 29–July 3). Survivors as experts: The role of lived experience in forensic evaluations and legal strategy [Conference presentation]. Annual conference of the International Association for Law and Mental Health, Montreal, Canada.

Rosario, F. (2026, June 29–July 3). Healing from legal trauma: Addressing secondary victimization in the justice system [Conference presentation]. Annual conference of the International Association for Law and Mental Health, Montreal, Canada.

Rosario, F. (2026, June 29–July 3). Therapeutic witness as a bridge between lived experience and professional practice in addressing inhuman violence [Panel presentation]. Annual conference of the International Association for Law and Mental Health, Montreal, Canada.

Rosario, F. (2026, July 1–6). A reckoning in the Troubled Teen Industry: Survivor voices, legal accountability, and institutional harm [Panel presentation]. Annual conference of the International Cultic Studies Association, San Diego, CA.

Rosario, F. (2026, July 1–6). Reframing shame: Creating a path to autonomy and resilience in trauma recovery [Conference presentation]. Annual conference of the International Cultic Studies Association, San Diego, CA.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

Coercive Control & Influence Dynamics Training | 2023–Present | Ongoing specialized education
Ending the Game (ETG) Facilitator Certification | February 2021
Evidence-based intervention for individuals impacted by commercial sexual exploitation